

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 000767

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/14/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ADCO](#) [ADPM](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: FM QIRBI ON THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH, EMBASSY
VEHICLES, AND NON-DIPLOMATIC PLATES

REF: SANAA 339

Classified By: Edmund J. Hull, Ambassador for Reasons 1.5 (b,d)

[11.](#) (C) Summary: Ambassador and Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi discussed problems plaguing the diplomatic pouch, outstanding vehicle exemption requests and the shortage of non-diplomatic "blue" license plates during an April 12 meeting on various subjects (septels). Ambassador criticized the lack of ROYG consistency and stressed the need for a swift resolution to avoid wider ramifications. FM Qirbi agreed to contact his ROYG counterparts to get these issues resolved. End summary.

Diplomatic Pouch

[12.](#) (C) Ambassador highlighted the latest diplomatic pouch run on April 11 as another example of ROYG inconsistency. He noted that post did everything ROYG requested and even sent people to the airport on 4/10 to make sure preparations were complete. Regardless, there were still new requirements on April 11 when the pouches arrived. Ambassador added that post now faces a situation that will require even larger shipments just to catch-up with the backlog.

[13.](#) (C) Noting that this impasse is continuing to draw attention in Washington, Ambassador delivered a non-paper outlining an April 4th incident in which diplomatic couriers were physically prevented from performing their duties -- one sustaining minor injuries while trying to maintain possession of the pouch.

[14.](#) (C) After hearing the details of the April 4th incident, FM Qirbi said he would raise the issue during a meeting with PSO Chief Gamish scheduled for later that afternoon (4/12).

Vehicle Exemptions

[15.](#) (C) Ambassador called FM Qirbi's attention to four pending vehicle exemptions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all of which are for armored vehicles. Ambassador highlighted the Embassy's need for additional armored vehicles to maintain a strong security posture, and advised that, due in part to the Embassy's growth because of increased U.S.-Yemen cooperation, additional vehicle exemption requests for both armored and personal vehicles would be forthcoming. Qirbi acknowledged the importance of maintaining security, but made no commitment to streamline the process.

"Blue" License Plates

[16.](#) (C) When discussion turned to the shortage of blue (non-diplomatic) license plates, FM Qirbi immediately denied MFA involvement in their issuance. Ambassador countered that the Ministry of Interior, the only other player in the process, said that the MOI has no objection to the release of these plates, the implication being that unresolved problems were to be dealt with by the MFA.

[17.](#) (C) Qirbi replied that he would raise this issue with the Minister of Interior later that day (4/12). The Ambassador welcomed Qirbi's involvement and added that the Embassy is trying to help ROYG by making U.S. officials harder targets -- by removing easily identifiable diplomatic plates and replacing them with regular blue plates.

HULL